

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

NEA-14 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

IO-14 DRC-01 /118 W

----- 048195

R 310745Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3632

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 9422

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ID

SUBJ: MALIK ON WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONGRESS

REF: A) JAKARTA 9331 B) JAKARTA 9180

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. GOI FONMIN MALIK TOLD PRESS FOLLOWING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO JULY 30 THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION OF PLANNED WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC) MEETING IN JAKARTA WITH PRESIDENT. FOLLOWING BASED ON PRESS REPORTS.

2. MALIK STATED THAT GOI IS CONSIDERING OBJECTIONS BY INDONESIAN MOSLEMS TO HOLDING CONFERENCE IN JAKARTA. HE SAID MOSLEMS OPPOSED TO CONGRESS WOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS, AND IF OBJECTIONS WERE CONSIDERED WELL-FOUNDED GOI WOULD "CERTAINLY TRY TO PREVENT BREACHES OF UNITY" OVER THIS ISSUE.

3. MALIK NOTED THAT PLANNED HOLDING OF CONGRESS IN JAKARTA HAD NOT YET HARMED INTERESTS OF INDONESIAN MOSLEMS, AND STRONGLY DENIED RUMORS WHICH HE SAID BEING SPREAD IN MOSQUES AND IN STREETS THAT GOI WANTS TO CHRISTIANIZE
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MOSLEMS IN INDONESIA OR IS IN ANY WAY NEGLECTING MOSLEM

INTERESTS. HE SAID RUMORS TO THIS EFFECT WERE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, AND CALLED ON PRESS TO "NEUTRALIZE" THIS SUBJECT. HE SAID GOI WOULD NOT TOLERATE EFFORTS TO FOMENT RELIGIOUS FRICTION, AND ADDED THAT GOI WILL REQUEST MINISTER OF RELIGION AND INDONESIAN CLERGYMEN TO ISSUE CLARIFICATIONS, AND TO ASSURE THE PUBLIC OF GOVERNMENT INTENTION TO PROTECT BELIEVERS OF ALL RELIGIONS.

END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

4. COMMENT: TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH REFTEL REPORTS, MALIK STATEMENT SUGGEST GOI TAKING TWO-TRACK APPROACH TO PROBLEM OF WCC CONFERENCE AND NEGATIVE MOSLEM REACTION. WHILE ATTEMPTING ON ONE HAND TO INDUCE WCC TO HOLD CONFERENCE ELSEWHERE THAN JAKARTA, GOI APPEARS DETERMINED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO AVOID GIVING INDONESIAN ISLAMIC COMMUNITY SENSE OF "VICTORY" OVER GOVERNMENT IN FORCING TRANSFER OF CONFERENCE OR ENCOURAGEMENT FOR FURTHER ANTI-CHRISTIAN AGITATION.
NEWSOM

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